

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

SICK/TEMPORARY: On Wednesday **Annette Cates** (**Dan Cates'** mother) broke her hip as a direct result of Hurricane Sally. She had successful surgery on Friday and should be moved to rehab on Monday or Tuesday. She is currently at Baptist Hospital in Pensacola.

PROTRACTED: **Janice Bailey**—Alzheimers; **Scooter Birmingham** (friend of **Destiny Clayton**); **Brian Brown** (**Paul Brown's** nephew)—epilepsy; **Shelly Cates**—fibromyalgia; **Gladys Marie Elrod** (**Mary Ray's** son-in-law's mother)—congestive heart failure; **Addliae Farrow** (**Tabatha Clayton's** great niece)—heart; **Bubba Farrow** (**Emma Farrow's** son)—Alzheimer's; **Jimmy Ferguson** (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; **Jerry Floate** (of this community)—liver transplant; **Kaylie Hadley**—UCTD; **Paula Harrison**—Meniere's Disease; **Wanda Jackson**—a-fib; **Stan Jones**—Meniere's Disease; **Monica La Rock** (granddaughter of **Orelia Ferguson** and mother of **Noah**)—recovering from a brain bleed and awaiting further surgery; **Garrett Lentz** (son of a co-worker of **Cody Hadley**)—seizures; **Sheila Massey**—Bell's palsy; **Becky Munns** (**Tabatha Clayton's** aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; **Shelby Peyton**—knee; **Robert Rawson** (preacher at **Crockett**)—diabetes; **Ray Reynold's** (**Sheila Massey** and **Mary West's** dad)—memory trouble; **Brett Rutherford** (**Dan Cates'** friend)—MS; **Tammy Turner** (a preacher's wife whom we support)—dementia; **Francis Wallace** (friend of **Mary Ray**).

CANCER: **Clifton Angel** (preacher at **Coldwater**)—thyroid; **Sherry Brown** (retired MSOP secretary); **Alicia Busby** (from the community); **Earl Carlton** (son of a friend of **Syble Embrey**)—esophageal; **Gary Darnell** (**Ella Darnell's** son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; **Brenda Davis** (a grandmother of **Edra** and **Ryan Farrow**); **Tom Gordon** (**Cody Hadley's** grandfather); **Nathan Jones** (the **Hounshells'** neighbors' 16 year old family member)—brain; **Sara Kiestler** (an FHU student)—Hodgkin's; **Wade Loggins** (member of congregation in **Elkmont, AL**); **Dorothy Mosher** (wife of an MSOP instructor); **Carol Ogelsby** (family of **Sonny Stewart** and the **Browns**)—stomach; **Tommy Pierce** (the **Browns'** friend); **John Riley** (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; **Tiffany Taylor** (the **Browns'** friend); and **Tabby Waters** (**Tabatha Clayton's** sister-in-law)—leukemia.

SHUT-IN: **Marie Crockett** (home), **Emma Farrow** (in a care facility in **Sardis**), **Orelia Ferguson** (home), and **Annette Cates** (**Dan Cates'** mother who is at home in **Pensacola, FL**).

SERVING: **Dylan** and **Maggie Cooper** (Air Force, Offut AFB, Neb.), **Cameron Hadley** (**Grayson Hadley's** dad—Marines, Hawaii), **Jacob Petrowski** (grandson of former members here—Marines, soon to be let out). Also, please continue to pray for **Kyle Embrey** (**Syble Embrey's** grandson—policeman) and all other military [especially who are going or remain abroad] and for all those in authority that we might live “quiet and peaceable” lives (I Timothy 2:1,2).

Independence Church of Christ
8543 Highway 305
Coldwater, MS 38618

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Informer



8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

662-560-8045

www.independencechurchofchrist.org

Services: Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4:45 p.m. (pew-packers), 5 p.m.
Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

Ministers: Every Christian

Elders: Dan Cates (662-560-8045)

Carl Hounshell (812-653-2358)

Evangelists: Dan Cates (662-560-8045; dsmccates@yahoo.com)

Missions [the latest reports from these works are on the bulletin board in the foyer]

Independence Mission Fund (next: tbd)

Memphis School of Preaching (Jonathan Jenkins)

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

Jim and Tammy Turner (Fairfield, North Carolina)

Trent Kennedy family (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India [Providing Bibles]

Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)

Tennessee Children's Home, West

Pablo Horna (Costa Rica) [Overseeing funds]

Many one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

Tom Wacaster

The book of Philemon takes up less than one full page in my Bible. Though small, it tells in a remarkable way the story of how Christ comes into the lives of men and women and, acting as leaven, slowly changes individual lives and the society in which they live. Perhaps just as importantly, this little book tells how Christianity sweetens the relationship between men who otherwise might be at odds with one another. I like the way Hastings put it: "Christianity tells how Christ steps in to dissolve the bitterness, to soften the misunderstandings, to put us right with one another in the little things in which we often go wrong, and finally to set our varied relationships on such a footing that our little circle of friends or associates shall become part of that blessed society of souls which is the Kingdom of God." The background leading up to the writing of this epistle is a story in itself. Yet, it is what comes out of that story that provides us with the greatest value. There are two characters in the story: Philemon and Onesimus. Philemon had been converted by Paul, and it would appear that their friendship had grown over the passing of time. Onesimus was a slave; Philemon's slave. One word sums it up. A "bond slave" (as the Greek puts it), with no essential rights of his own. Onesimus must have grown weary as a slave and made his escape, taking with him something of value belonging to Philemon. He must have fled to Rome to get lost in the maze of human debris and there spend his ill-gotten gain. Somehow, he came in contact with Paul. How, or under what circumstances we are not told. Paul took the man, taught him, converted him, and molded him. When the time was right, Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon to make things right. This letter we now have in our possession by divine inspiration, is Paul's plea that Philemon receive Onesimus back and treat him as a brother in Christ. From this epistle we learn two lessons on human relations.

First, this little epistle tells me that Christianity enriches the relationships in life. When Onesimus ran off, Philemon had lost an indifferent and insolent slave. Onesimus was a Phrygian slave, and history tells us such men were stubborn and hard to deal with. Paul's observation that Onesimus had been "unprofitable" to Philemon, leads me to believe that Philemon's loss was not all that big a loss. When Onesimus returned to Philemon he was a different man. He had been a slave to whom duty was drudgery and life was miserable beyond description. Did Philemon accept Onesimus back? Who can doubt it? Both were now brothers in Christ, and everything else being equal, Onesimus' relationship to Philemon was forever altered. Whether now as a slave under Philemon's house, or returned to minister to Paul, to Onesimus duty was music, and life was lit with love. Your relationships in life may not be ideal. You may have a poor employee, or a pathetic boss, but Christianity does not give either the right to worsen that relationship. One author put it this way: "The conditions of life may not be good, and the relations in which we stand to one another may not be ideal, but Christianity, when it is real, will make them as good as they *can* be. When Christ comes in, the whole outlook of life and work and service is lifted above the narrow horizons of our own pleasure, or even the accepted standards, and becomes centered on Christ."

Second, Christianity breaks down the barriers that keeps the brotherhood of man from splintering into thousands of fragments thereby producing civil unrest. Don't tell me the book of Philemon is not relative. Look at what is happening in Portland, Washington, Wisconsin, Chicago, and Minneapolis. When Christ came into the lives of Philemon and Onesimus, he gave them the essential tools and understanding in life to break down those barriers that keep men from acting the best toward each other. It was Christianity that broke down the institution of slavery in Rome. It is Christianity that broke down slavery in America, and the rest of the civilized world. It is Christianity that will break down the civil unrest and racial tensions that are spilling out into the streets of America, even as I write these lines.

I once read of a play depicting the life of Abraham Lincoln, and with which I will close this article. One scene in that play depicted an aging, black preacher by the name of Fredrick Douglas, who was invited to visit Mr. Lincoln in the White House. When he walked into the room, the President invited Douglas to take a chair. Douglas was reluctant to sit down, and said to the President, "No sir. I am black and you are white." "No, no," replies Lincoln, "we are just two old men talking together."

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:14,15)

BIBLE QUESTION:

This week's question: Is Jephthah mentioned in the New Testament?

Last week's question: Who is described as the "author and finisher of our faith"?

Last week's answer: Jesus (*Hebrews 12:2*)

SERMONS: Tom Wacaster will begin our Gospel Meeting today.

DAILY BIBLE READING (September 21-27):

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Ezekiel 34-36	37-39	40-42	43-45	46-48	Daniel 1-3	4-6

SCRIPTURE READING (SEPTEMBER): Carl Hounshell (Please see Tom Wacaster)

(OCTOBER): Dan Cates

PRESIDE LORD'S SUPPER MORNING (SEPTEMBER): Thomas Massey

(OCTOBER): Carl Hounshell

ASSIST LORD'S SUPPER (SEPTEMBER): Paul Brown and Sonny Stewart

(OCTOBER): Conor Cates and Cody Hadley

CLEAN BUILDING (SEPTEMBER): Suzanne and Katie Brown

(OCTOBER): The Hounshells

PREPARE COMMUNION (SEPTEMBER): Tabatha Clayton

(OCTOBER): Kim Arrington

PANTRY NEEDS: The **Tennessee Children's Home** truck will be here September 29th. A list of their needs is in the foyer.

UPCOMING EVENTS (For particular details, check the bulletin board for flyers):

Saturday (September 26)

Ladies Day at Forest Hill with Berta Kennedy speaking.